

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method to be executed as part of a process for  
creating an executable configuration program that comprises  
5 multiple steps that are successively executed and wherein  
associated with each of the steps are user-selectable  
options, the method comprising:

creating a rule that during execution of the  
configuration program determines which of the user-selectable  
10 options for a step are displayed when a specified user-  
selectable option of a previous step is selected; and

binding the rule to the specified selectable option  
so that during execution of the configuration program the rule  
is executed when the specified user-selectable option is  
15 selected.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the binding of the  
rule to the specified user-selectable option is performed by  
virtue of a designer selecting a user-selectable option for  
20 which to create the rule.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
creating a textual explanation of the step that  
describes available user-selectable options for the step; and

binding the textual explanation to the step so that during execution of the configuration program the textual explanation of the step is displayed.

5           4.    The method of claim 3 wherein creating the textual explanation comprises translating the textual explanation into at least one different language.

10           5.    The method of claim 1 further comprising evaluating the stability of a configured software application by executing the software application using a simulated user-selectable option.

15           6.    A system comprising:  
a computer network;  
a service delivery device coupled to the network,  
the service delivery device including a processor and  
memory storing instructions that, in response to receiving a  
first type of request for access to a service, cause the  
20   processor to:

create an executable configuration program that comprises multiple steps that are successively executed and wherein associated with each of the steps are user-selectable options;

create a rule that during execution of the configuration program determines which of the user-selectable options for a step are displayed when a specified user-selectable option of a previous step is selected; and

5               bind the rule to the specified selectable option so that during execution of the configuration program the rule is executed when the specified user-selectable option is selected.

10           7.    The system of claim 6 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to bind the rule to the specified user-selectable option by providing an ability to select a user-selectable option for which to create the rule.

15           8.    The system of claim 6 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to:

              create a textual explanation of the step that  
20           describes available user-selectable options for the step; and

              bind the textual explanation to the step so that during execution of the configuration program the textual explanation of the step is displayed.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to translate the textual explanation into at least one different language.

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10. The system of claim 6 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to evaluate the stability of a configured software application by executing the software application using a simulated user-selectable option.

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11. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing machine-readable instructions that, when applied to the machine, cause the machine to:

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create an executable configuration program that comprises multiple steps that are successively executed and wherein associated with each of the steps are user-selectable options;

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create a rule that during execution of the configuration program determines which of the user-selectable options for a step are displayed when a specified user-selectable option of a previous step is selected; and

bind the rule to the specified selectable option so that during execution of the configuration program the rule is

executed when the specified user-selectable option is  
selected.

12. The article of claim 11 including instructions that,  
5 when applied to the machine, cause the machine to bind the  
rule to the specified user-selectable option by providing an  
ability to select a user-selectable option for which to create  
the rule.

10 13. The article of claim 11 including instructions that,  
when applied to the machine, cause the machine to:

create a textual explanation of the step that  
describes available user-selectable options for the step; and

bind the textual explanation to the step so that  
15 during execution of the configuration program the textual  
explanation of the step is displayed.

14. The article of claim 13 including instructions that,  
when applied to the machine, cause the machine to translate  
20 the textual explanation into at least one different language.

15. The article of claim 13 including instructions that,  
when applied to the machine, cause the machine to evaluate the  
stability of a configured software application by executing

the software application using a simulated user-selectable option.